

## Navy Neglected Troop Convoy, Sims Asserts

Department, Warned of the Danger of Battle-Cruiser Raid, Waited 10 Months to Act, Admiral Charges

Shipping Faced Menace

Declares Plan After Plan Suggested by Washington Was Rejected by Allies

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Germany missed an opportunity to paralyze shipping and American troop movements to France in the summer of 1918 by not sending a battle-cruiser to raid convoys. Rear Admiral Sims said today, continuing his testimony before the Senate committee investigating his charges against the Navy Department's conduct of the war. Although the department was warned in September, 1917, of this danger, he said, it had no comprehensive plan to combat such an enemy move ten months later when the danger was really imminent.

"The department acknowledged that it had no approved plans and said that it depended upon the European forces and upon the British grand fleet to stand off the danger until it had time to act," Admiral Sims asserted, adding that a little "bluff" on Germany's part would have worked havoc with Allied transportation. The department suggested plan after plan in the intervening months, the admiral said, all based on a wrong premise and most of which had been previously considered and rejected by the Allies as unworkable.

Aroused by Cruiser Reports

In August, 1918, word came that the enemy was preparing two cruisers for raiding duty. Admiral Sims continued, and not until then did the department abandon its own ideas and accept his recommendation, made ten months before, that battleships be assigned to protect troopships. He read from the cablegram accepting his plan, in which the department said it was "only a temporary expedient" and did not "solve the problem of continued enemy battle-cruiser activity in the Atlantic."

The same cable said that "no reply" had been received to a request by the department that four Japanese battle-cruisers be assigned to the American Atlantic fleet for duty against raiders and that the department desired to "know what will be the Admiralty's policy as to the use of their battle-cruisers for pursuit in case of the escape of an enemy battle-cruiser."

The admiral said that confusion as to plans at this stage of the war was an impressive example of the deplorable absence of unity of command at sea, a measure which the Allies finally adopted on land and which made victory possible.

Atlantic Shipping Threatened

"Fortunately, the enemy never attempted a battle-cruiser raid," said the officer. "To any one at all familiar with the case it is, to put it mildly, disgusting to contemplate the confusion of all Atlantic shipping, naval and merchant, room carriers and all, that would have resulted if the raid had occurred during those long-drawn-out negotiations between Washington and London in an attempt to reach a simple decision as to joint action."

Admiral Sims discussed four plans proposed by the department for defeating Germany of the sea. They were: a protected lane through the danger zone; the blocking of German ports by sinking ships in the entrance; mine barriers of nets and mines of types then in use; mine barriers of mines of a new type. All except the last were impracticable, he declared, and much time was wasted by the insistence of the department that they be tried.

Ninth Science Church

Votes to Oust Reader

Mrs. Kain Said to Support the Board of Directors in National Dispute

Because they are displeased with Mrs. Winsome E. S. Kain's open support of the board of directors of the Christian Science Church in Boston, a majority of the members of the Ninth Church of Christ, Scientist, here have voted to oust her as the second reader. Mrs. Kain has not yet received notification of the action, she said yesterday. The congregation was organized only recently and has been holding services in the Park Avenue Hotel.

The action to request Mrs. Kain's resignation is for reasons directly opposite those which resulted in the expulsion of Wentworth B. Winslow as first reader in the Seventh Church of Christ, Scientist, of this city last month.

Mr. Winslow says he has been unable to account for the vote against him in the Seventh Church, but it is known that he was opposed to excluding the Christian Science publications from the church and reading room, and that the congregation favored the ouster policy. Mrs. Kain's attitude is in opposition to the directors and against the publications.

Mrs. Kain is a professional practitioner with offices at 265 Fifth Avenue. With H. E. Lisan, of this city, she was

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